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RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 002239

SIPDIS

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SUBJECT: ISRAELI HIGH COURT PROHIBITS BERLANTY AZZAM FROM
FINISHING STUDIES IN BETHLEHEM

REF: JERUSALEM 2232

Classified By: Consul General Daniel Rubinstein for reasons 1.4 (b) and
(d).

¶1. (SBU) Summary. The Israeli High Court decided not to allow Palestinian college student Berlanty Azzam to complete her studies at Bethlehem University, following her arrest in the West Bank and removal to Gaza by the Israeli military on October 28. End Summary.

¶2. (SBU) On December 9, Israel's High Court decided to uphold the Israeli military's decision to not allow Palestinian student Berlanty Azzam to complete her studies at Bethlehem University, following her arrest in the West Bank and removal to Gaza by the Israeli military on October 28. Azzam has no further legal recourse to appeal this decision (reftel).

¶3. (C) Brother Jack Curran, Vice President for Development at Bethlehem University, reported that Azzam now is considering applying for a permit from the Government of Israel (GOI) to complete the final two months of her studies and graduate from Bethlehem University. Sari Bashi, Executive Director of the NGO Gisha, which provided Azzam legal services, will request permission from the GOI next week for up to six additional Gazan students to study at Bethlehem and Birzeit Universities in the West Bank.

RUBINSTEIN